

## TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Joseph Connelly  
Director of Recreation



PARK COMMISSIONERS  
Leslie Mayer, Chairperson  
Jen Rothenberg, Vice Chair  
Shirley Canniff  
Donald Vitters  
Jim Robillard  
Elena Bartholomew, Associate  
Peter Hedlund, Associate

### Recreation Department

Park and Recreation Commission  
Minutes  
Tuesday, March 24, 2015  
Arlington Senior Center  
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00 PM for its meeting in the Arlington Senior Center on Tuesday, March 24, 2015.

Members in attendance included: Shirley Canniff, Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Don Vitters, Jim Robillard and Associate Members Elena Bartholomew and Peter Hedlund. Director of Recreation, Joseph Connelly was also present.

Members from the public: Alan Jones, Shakti Davis, Lisa Bielefeld, Elisabeth Carr-Jones, Laura Fuller, Sara Lynch, Brian Malo.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from March 10, 2015 were approved as amended on a motion by Ms. Canniff, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 4-0-1 with Ms. Mayer abstaining.

#### **Open Forum – Public Comments**

There were no comments.

#### **Robbins Farm Cooperative Garden**

Ms. Carr-Jones reviewed the history of the Robbins Farm Garden. The Commission and representatives from the garden discussed possible changes to the garden including several ADA compliance upgrades. Mr. Connelly stated that the main need was compliant access. The Commission discussed possibly incorporating access to the garden from the sidewalk as part of the Robbins Farm Field renovation currently scheduled for FY 17.

The Commission and Ms. Carr-Jones discussed replacement fencing options with a compliant gate. The Commission also discussed the need for some raised beds and having compliant pathways within the garden area.

Mr. Connelly was asked to have IHCD recommend pathway widths and the height of compliant planting beds. The Commission discussed that for now the goal would be to have at least two compliant beds within the garden.

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Ms. Rothenberg motioned to move forward with improvements to the garden including two raised beds, ADA compliant gate and paths, and compliant pathway material.

The Commission discussed a timetable. It was recommended that the end goal is by FY 17 when the other pathway from the sidewalk to the garden could be completed.

The Robbins Farm Garden Committee will submit a more detailed plan of the improvements to the Commission at a later date.

Ms. Canniff seconded support for the improvements and the Commission approved full support 5-0.

### Bishop Elementary School Garden

Ms. Fuller and Ms. Lynch reviewed their proposal with the Commission to use park land for the Bishop School student garden project. The Commission discussed the proposal with Ms. Fuller and Ms. Lynch. The plan is for all beds to be raised, and the issue of ADA compliant beds was again discussed. Mr. Connelly will ask IHCD the recommended height for a raised bed. The Commission discussed other ADA concerns and the fact that this was only a pilot program.

Mr. Connelly asked who would be mowing around the raised beds. Ms. Fuller stated that this would be the custodian's responsibility. Mr. Connelly asked that this be put in writing by the Principal and submitted as part of the plan so that there would be no misunderstanding when the program is up and running.

Ms. Bartholomew stated a concern with protecting the area so someone doesn't trip over the beds or trample the garden in the evening, when it could be difficult to see the raised beds. The Commission stated that some sort of delineation from the rest of the park would be preferred.

The proposed starting date of Saturday, April 11 was discussed with a back-up date of May 2.

Ms. Mayer asked that the group present a plan with a fence option and the location for some ADA compliant beds and resubmit the proposal at the April 14 meeting. Mr. Connelly will assist them with obtaining the correct ADA information before then.

Mr. Vitters stated that he would also like some detail on how the bed was to be constructed including materials used and design.

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#### **Art Rocks Spy Pond: Entry and Location Review**

Ms. Arch reviewed the Commission's concerns about placement and art stability, raised at the previous meeting. The use of poured on-site concrete footings was discouraged, and the Commission and Ms. Arch brainstormed alternatives. The Commission decided that a walk through was needed to make necessary evaluations and recommendations. The Commission will formally post a meeting for a walk around with Ms. Arch on Friday, March 27 at 11 am.

The Commission discussed the proposed art, and Mr. Connelly asked if anyone had any issues with the art projects themselves as presented. Ms. Canniff and Mr. Connelly did have the same concern with #6 use of a garden wire base and the stakes used in #10. Ms. Arch will review the concerns with the artists.

#### **Summer Street Field Upgrades Continued Discussion**

Mr. Malo reviewed the specifications and details concerning a proposed batting tunnel. The Commission discussed the size, installation and location of the proposed batting tunnel. Mr. Vitters recommended that the powdered black posts be included to soften the appearance. Mr. Malo stated that Babe Ruth would pick up all costs, which would be about \$4,000 for the physical tunnel and then \$1,000 to put up and take down each year.

Mr. Malo stated that this should assist with the number of foul balls going into the street and neighboring properties.

Mr. Malo also asked that the temporary fencing request be tabled until more information is available.

Mr. Connelly stated that notice of this meeting was sent to the Summer Street neighbors and reminded the Commission that this was proposed as a "pilot".

Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the batting tunnel as a pilot from April 1, 2015 – August 15, 2015 with the following conditions:

1. Pilot program from April 1 to August 15 of 2015 season, to be reviewed after the season.
2. Babe Ruth is responsible for all costs associated with purchase and installation.
3. The model presented was the model approved, with the addition of the black powder coated posts.
4. It should be installed per manufacturer specifications with the contractor providing the town liability insurance naming the town as additional insured.
5. No other earth work is involved other than the pouring of the footings for the sleeves.
6. Final location to be reviewed with the Recreation Department prior to installation.
7. Babe Ruth acknowledges that the location may change if bleachers are to ever be considered at the park and if so the cost of the new sleeves is the responsibility of Babe Ruth.

Motion seconded by Ms. Canniff and approved 3-1-1 with Mr. Robillard abstaining and Ms. Mayer voting in the negative.

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### Recreation Department

#### **Rink Loitering Policy**

Mr. Connelly discussed a loitering incident that occurred at the rink on Wednesday, March 11 with the Commission. Mr. Connelly reviewed the concerns from Mr. Robert Young, an abutter to the facility. The Commission reviewed their current loitering policy. The Commission asked that the warnings be reduced to three and language be included in the policy to indicate courteous behavior is expected when exiting the facility. The Commission discussed revised language as illustrated below and will formally vote on the revised policy at a future meeting.

#### **Ed Burns Arena Loitering Policy**

1. Groups are expected to vacate the premises **in a quiet and orderly manner within** 15 minutes after they leave the building.
2. Any groups not adhering to this policy will be subject to disciplinary action leading up to the loss of ice time. **One time ice users may lose the privilege of renting ice in the future.**
3. Groups will be notified and penalized as follows:
  - a. **First offense** – Group will be notified in writing of the violation.
  - b. **Second Offense** – Group shall **forfeit ice privileges for one week but will still be responsible for the payment of that ice.**
  - c. **Third Offense** – Group shall **forfeit ice privileges for one year from date of violation and must appear before the Park and Recreation Commission prior to using the facility again.**

The group may appeal the decision to Park and Recreation Commission.

One bit of incorrect information in the complaint was that the rink was being used until 1am nightly. Mr. Connelly stated that the last group is off the ice at 11:35pm and the push is to have everyone out of the building, including staff, by midnight. Ms. Mayer asked Mr. Connelly to look in the scheduling software and see the last time any group used the ice past midnight.

#### **Rink Scheduling Policy**

The Commission reviewed the draft policy with Mr. Connelly, and he asked that the Commission members further review the policy on their own and send him any feedback prior to April 1. Mr. Connelly said he would incorporate the feedback and then review with the users at a spring meeting.

#### **Special Requests**

*Kevin Duffy Signage for Spy Pond Swan*

The Commission reviewed the request from sculpture Kevin Duffy to place the following sign at his Spy Pond Swan sculpture:

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#### " PENNY"

Kevin Duffy - 2014

This carved, granite sculpture is an Arlington Public Art project, made possible in part, by a grant from the Arlington Cultural Council, with the support of The Friends of Spy Pond Park and the Arlington Parks and Recreation Department.  
PLEASE DO NOT STAND ON THE SCULPTURE

The Commission discussed the wording and felt that some of the wording was unnecessary.

Mr. Vitters motioned to approve the following language, seconded my Ms. Canniff and approved 5-0.

#### " PENNY"

Created by (or sculptured by) Kevin Duffy - 2014

#### Commission Topic Leader Discussion

No reports at this time.

#### Capital Projects Update

##### *Spy Pond Tennis Courts*

Mr. Connelly reviewed the results of the bids for the Spy Pond Tennis Courts project, stating that he had checked the low bidder's references and at this time Ronald Marini Corp. of Newton was the low bidder.

Mr. Connelly also reviewed the status of the USTA tennis grant, stating that it could take up to 4 weeks for the final results and that we should proceed as if the grant did not exist. If the grant was successful then the Commission could make decisions for possible add-ons.

Mr. Connelly's recommendation was to award the base bid with alternate one, which is the mini court.

Mr. Vitters motioned to accept the recommendation, seconded by Ms. Rothenberg and approved 5-0.

#### Other

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted:  
Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation

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